



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: Unknown

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application as follows:

Page 1, please replace the first paragraph with the following:

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/196,297, entitled "NETWORK ARCHITECTURE, SYSTEMS, AND METHODS," filed on April 12, 2000, the disclosure of which is expressly incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, and is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/814,178, entitled "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MANAGING AND CONFIGURING VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORKS," filed March 22, 2001, Attorney

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